

## Message Text

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44

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SCCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 CCO-00 /027 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/NC:TWSONANDRES:STT

APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS

M:EBOSWELL

S/CCT:EHURWITZ

S/S-O: A. OTTO

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O 281914Z FEB 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049295 TOSEC 060015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, VE, US

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: KIDNAPPING OF AMERICAN

- - - BUSINESSMAN IN VENEZUELA

1. AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN WILLIAM NIEHOUS, VICE PRESIDENT OF OWENS-ILLINOIS' CARACAS OFFICE, WAS KIDNAPPED FROM HIS CARACAS HOME ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2005 HOURS LOCAL TIME. THE SEVEN INVOLVED MAY BELONG TO EXTREME LEFTIST BANDERA ROJA (RED FLAG). INTERIOR MINISTER INFORMED OUR AMBASSADOR SAME EVENING THAT GOV INVESTIGATION BEING PURSUED WITH ALL VIGOR, A GENERAL ALARM HAS BEEN ISSUED, ROADBLOCKS ESTABLISHED, ETC. GOV FULLY AWARE THAT THIS MATTER IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY AND HAS TAKEN CHARGE. EMBASSY IS REMAINING IN THE BACKGROUND. THUS FAR, NO RANSOM DEMANDS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. IN RESPONSE PRESS INQUIRIES, WE ARE CONFIRMING FACT OF KIDNAPPING, BUT SAYING WE HAVE NO DETAILS. NEXT MOVE EVIDENTLY UP TO KIDNAPPERS.

2. THIS IS THE FIRST KIDNAPPING OF AN AMERICAN IN VENEZUELA SINCE THE 1960'S, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN  
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SEVERAL KIDNAPPINGS OF PROMINENT VENEZUELANS IN THE

1970'S, THE OBJECTIVES WERE NOT CLEAR--A MIX OF URBAN  
TERRORISM AND CRIME. IT IS PREMATURE TO DETERMINE  
WHETHER IN FACT THIS IS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED OR WHY

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OWEN'S-ILLINOIS EXECUTIVE WAS CHOSEN. INGERSOLL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TOSEC, KIDNAPPING, BUSINESSMEN  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE049295  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** TWSONANDRES:STT  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760076-0561  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t1976021/aaaaaaiz.tel  
**Line Count:** 67  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: KIDNAPPING OF AMERICAN - - - BUSINESSMAN IN VENEZUELA  
**TAGS:** PINS, VE, US, (NIEHOUS, WILLIAM F)  
**To:** SECRETARY  
**Type:** TE  
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